

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 3, 4, 6 and 7 are pending. By the present amendment, claims 1, 2 and 5 have been canceled without prejudice, and claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 6 and 7 are allowable, and that claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Without acquiescing in the rejections, claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claims 3, 4, 6 and 7 are allowable, and no further comment will be made with respect thereto.

The rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Daikoku et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,181,046) is now moot. Without acquiescing in the rejection and to expedite prosecution, claims 1 and 2 have been canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, the rejection is now moot, and reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested.

Likewise, the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Daikoku et al. in view of Hotta et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,259,183) is also moot. Without acquiescing in the rejection, and to expedite prosecution, claim 5 has been canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, the rejection is moot, and reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested.

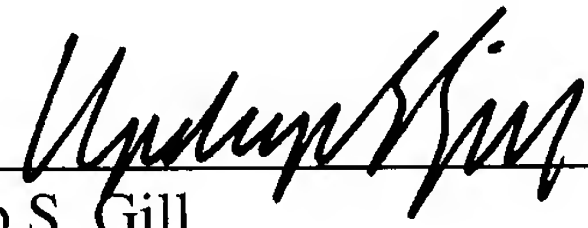
ITO et al.

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In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the entire application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application and prompt allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner deem that further issues require resolution prior to allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney of record at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,
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MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIM

3. (Amended) A commutator mounted on a rotor of an electric rotary machine, the commutator comprising:

- 2n commutator segments, n being an integer;
- 2n segment bases formed by separating a metallic base plat, each segment base contacting each commutator segment, the 2n segment bases being insulated from one another by slits formed on the metallic base plate wherein:
 - the 2n commutator segments are electrically insulated from one another;
 - the 2n commutator segments form n pairs of commutator segments, the commutator segments in each pair being positioned symmetrically with respect to an axis of the rotor; and
 - the commutator segments in each pair are electrically connected to each other through a connecting portion formed integrally with the metallic base plate, [The commutator as in claim 2], wherein[:] n pieces of the connecting portions are formed integrally with the metallic base plate[:], and the n pieces of the connecting portions are all depressed from a metallic base plate surface contacting the commutator segments by a distance exceeding a thickness of the metallic base plate.